

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SAM-01 SAJ-01 SCCT-01 DHA-02 /084 W

----- 123726

R 040500Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5855

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 5054

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH-SPANISH RELATIONS

REF: STOCKHOLM 4930 AND 4948 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. SPANISH AMBASSADOR DE LA SERNA LEFT STOCKHOLM FOR MADRID OCTOBER 1, THREE DAYS AFTER THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE RECALL FROM MADRID OF AMBASSADOR KNUT BERNSTROM. FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON, MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR LEIF LEIFLAND, AND AMBASSADOR BERNSTROM MET WITH THE PRESS IN A CONCERTED EFFORT TO INSURE THAT THE LIMITED UNCLASSIFIED

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NATURE OF THE SWEDISH-SPANISH NATURE OF THE BREAK BE UNDER-

STOOD AND ACCEPTED BY PUBLIC OPINION. END SUMMARY

2. DEPARTURE OF SERNA. ACCORDING TO PRESS, SERNA ADVISED MFA OF HIS DEPARTURE AT 10:00 A.M. OCTOBER 1 AND LEFT STOCKHOLM SAME DAY AT 4 P.M. SERNA HAS SERVED IN STOCKHOLM FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IS FIRST SECRETARY JOSE IGNACIO CARBAJAL. (COUNSELOR JOSE MANUEL ALLENDESALAZAR HAS RECENTLY BEEN HOSPITALIZED FOR BACK SURGERY.)

3. FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS. ANDERSSON COMMENTED TO PRESS SAME DAY THAT:

- SERNA HAD BEEN CALLED HOME "FOR CONSULTATIONS";
- ACTION WAS EXPECTED BECAUSE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY CALLED HOME AMBASSADORS FROM A NUMBER OF OTHER EUROPEAN CAPITALS;
- DESPITE INTERRUPTION AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL, EMBASSIES STAFFS REMAINED BEHIND IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

4. POLITICAL DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS. ALSO ON OCTOBER 1, LEIF LEIFLAND TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE THAT DEPARTURE OF SERNA SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS A REACTION TO PRIME MINISTER PALME'S TERMINOLOGY (IMPLICATION BEING THAT WITH OR WITHOUT THE TERMINOLOGY, SPAIN WAS CALLING HOME AMBASSADOR FROM MANY COUNTRIES THAT HAD PROTESTED THE EXECUTIONS IN SPAIN). LEIFLAND ADDED THAT RECALL NEVERTHELESS SIGNALLED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN SWEDEN AND SPAIN HAD SIGNIFICANTLY WORSENERED. OTHER POINTS MADE BY LEIFLAND:

- TIMING OF RETURN OF SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO MADRID WAS "BEYOND COMPETENCE OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AND SPECULATION WOULD BE SUPERFLUOUS";
- RECALL OF BERNSTROM AND TIMING OF RETURN WAS PART OF A BROAD INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY ACTION IN WHICH ALL OF WESTERN EUROPE WAS TAKING PART;
- THE FUNCTION OF A DIPLOMAT ABROAD IS TO ACT AS AN INFORMATION LINK AND CHANNEL BETWEEN HIS HOST GOVERNMENT AND HIS OWN GOVERNMENT, SO THAT THE HOME GOVERNMENT CAN REACH APPROPRIATE DECISIONS;
- WITHOUT DRAWING OTHER PARALLELS WITH EVENTS IN CHILE WHEN PRESIDENT ALLENDE WAS OVERTHROWN, IT SHOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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RECALLED THAT AMBASSADOR HARALD EDELSTAM REMAINED BEHIND IN SANTIAGO AND HELPED SAVE MANY LIVES;

- OTHER FORMS OF SWEDISH ACTION IN CONCERT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION, INCLUDING INITIATIVES AT THE UN AND AT THE NOVEMBER MINISTERIAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

5. AMBASSADOR BERNSTROM'S COMMENTS. APPEARING BEFORE

NEWSMEN AND TV CAMERAS AT LEIFLAND'S SIDE, AMBASSADOR  
BERNSTROM COMMENTED THAT:

- SPAIN IS A COUNTRY UNDERGOING CHANGE AND CHANGES  
WOULD COME WITHOUT VIOLENCE BECAUSE MAJORITY OF  
SPANISH CITIZENS OPPOSE VIOLENCE;
- HE HOPES TO RETURN TO MADRID AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;
- SPANISH MEDIA COVERAGE FOR FOREIGN PROTESTS IS  
"FAR LESS LIMITED THAN MANY BELIEVE";
- HE SEEKS TO MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH ALL CURRENTS OF  
DIFFERING SPANISH OPINION.

6. PRESS REACTION. ONE OF THE AGGRESSIVE NEWSMEN FOUND  
BOTH LEIFLAND AND BERNSTROM TO BE "CAUTIOUS DIPLOMATS DOING  
THEIR DUTY IN MEETING WITH THE PRESS, WELL-DRILLED IN  
DIPLOMATIC RHETORIC, WEIGHING EVERY WORD AND FORMULATION."  
DAGENS NYHETER JOURNALIST (ENEBERG) EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT  
THAT THEY SAID NOTHING ABOUT US RETICENCE OR "ANY-  
THING THAT COULD IRRITATE FRANCO." HE ALSO CITED LEIFLAND'S  
EXPERIENCE AS CHARGE IN WASHINGTON DURING 1972-73 ABSENCE  
OF AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON AND STOCKHOLM.

7. BIOGRAPHIC. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, 56 YEAR OLD  
BERNSTROM IS SOCIAL DEMOCRAT WHO CONVERTED TO CATHOLICISM  
AT THE AGE OF 18 AND WHO IS WELL-RECEIVED/INTRODUCED AMONG  
"PROGRESSIVE CATHOLIC CIRCLES" IN SPAIN AND AMONG BASQUES.  
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## Message Attributes

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